

Amendments to the Claims:

This list of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for collecting blood clots, plaque, and other debris in arteries or veins, said apparatus comprising:

a filter assembly forming an elongated chamber;

a paddle assembly disposed in said chamber comprising at least one paddle having front and rear exterior surfaces defining a thickness of the paddle and pores extending through the thickness of the paddle from the front surface to the rear surface of the paddle;

a porous floor disposed within and extending across said chamber; and

a means for coupling said filter assembly to an artery ~~[[and]]~~ and/or to a vein.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

said paddle assembly includes a rotatable axis and at least two of the paddles ~~extending~~ extend therefrom; and

~~said paddles having a porous surface; and~~

said pores in said ~~porous surface~~ paddles being micro pores.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said axis extends at a generally perpendicular angle from said porous floor and generally along the axis of said chamber.

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus of claim 3, wherein:

said chamber is generally cylindrical having a proximal end and a distal end; and

said porous floor is disposed adjacent to said distal end.

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said porous floor is structured to allow blood to flow therethrough and to capture debris.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 5, wherein:

said filter assembly includes an anterior wall;

said anterior wall having a one-way valve structured to allow blood to flow into said chamber; and

said distal end includes a one-way valve structured to allow blood to flow out of said chamber.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 6, wherein:

said filter assembly includes an engine having a shaft and structured to produce rotation in said shaft; and

said shaft coupled to said axis whereby said axis is rotated.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said means for coupling said filter to an artery [[and]] and/or a vein is in fluid communication with said anterior wall one-way valve and said distal end one-way valve.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said means for coupling said filter to an artery [[and]] and/or a vein includes:

a guiding catheter in fluid communication with said artery;

a catheter Y-adaptor;

a three-way stopcock;

an inflow tube; and

said guiding catheter, catheter Y-adaptor, three-way stopcock and inflow tube structured to be in fluid communication with each other and said anterior wall one-way valve whereby fluid within said guiding catheter may travel through said Y-adaptor, three-way stopcock and inflow tube into said filter assembly.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said means for coupling said filter to an artery [[and]] and/or a vein includes:

an outflow tube in fluid communication with said distal and one-way valve;

a venous Y-adaptor;

a venous sheath in fluid communication with said vein; and

said outflow tube, venous Y-adaptor, and venous sheath structured to be in

fluid communication with each other whereby fluid in said filter assembly is returned to said vein.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein:

said guiding catheter has a distal end structured to be inserted in said artery; and

said distal end having an integral balloon.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): A method of filtering thromboembolic debris from blood comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a filter assembly having a chamber and a paddle assembly disposed in said chamber, said paddle assembly having a rotatable axis and at least two paddles extending therefrom;

(b) providing a guideline catheter having an integral balloon;

(c) inserting said catheter into a blood vessel;

(d) coupling said guiding catheter to said filter assembly in fluid communication thereby allowing blood to flow through said filter assembly;

(e) rotating said axis and paddles in blood in said chamber.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): An apparatus for collecting blood clots, plaque, and other debris in arteries or veins, said apparatus comprising:

a filter assembly forming an elongated chamber;

said chamber having a spherical inner chamber;

a paddle assembly disposed in said spherical inner chamber;

said paddle assembly includes a rotatable axis and at least two paddles extending therefrom;

a means for coupling said filter assembly to an artery and to a vein; and

wherein said axis extends at a generally perpendicular to the axis of said chamber.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 13, wherein:

said paddles having a porous surface; and

said pores in said porous surface being micro pores.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said porous surface is structured to allow blood to flow therethrough and to capture debris.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 15 wherein:
said filter assembly includes an anterior wall;
said anterior wall having a one-way valve structured to allow blood to flow into said chamber; and
said distal end includes a one-way valve structured to allow blood to flow out of said chamber.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said filter assembly includes:

an engine having a shaft and structured to produce rotation in said shaft;
and
said shaft coupled to said axis whereby said axis is rotated.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said means for coupling said filter to an artery and a vein is in fluid communication with said anterior wall one-way valve and said distal end one-way valve.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said means for coupling said filter to an artery and a vein includes:

a guiding catheter in fluid communication with said artery;
a catheter Y-adaptor;
a three-way stopcock;
an inflow tube; and
said guiding catheter, catheter Y-adaptor, three-way stopcock and inflow tube structured to be in fluid communication with each other and said anterior wall one-way valve whereby fluid within said guiding catheter may travel through said Y-adaptor, three-way stopcock and inflow tube into said filter assembly.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said means for coupling said filter to an artery and a vein includes:

an outflow tube in fluid communication with said distal and one-way valve;

a venous Y-adaptor;
a venous sheath in fluid communication with said vein; and
said outflow tube, venous Y-adaptor, and venous sheath structured to be in
fluid communication with each other whereby fluid in said filter assembly is returned to said
vein.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 20 wherein:

said guiding catheter has a distal end structured to be inserted in said
artery; and
said distal end having an integral balloon.